

Improving the Quality and Safety of Health Care for Virginians

Assessment & Evaluation
of Licensed Healthcare Practitioners

Driving forces

- 98,000 to 195,000 deaths each year from preventable medical error
- Quality of care varies widely by area, by income and by service type
- Public expectation that they will receive the right care done right
- US health licensure system created for a different era

Groundswell for change

- Pew Commission, IOM, FSMB, and others recommend State Licensing Boards require periodic assessment & demonstration of competencies as condition of license renewal
- Board Certified Physicians rapidly moving to require Demonstrations of Competency
- Some other providers (Nurses, Dentists, Pharmacists, Dietitians) studying DOC

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AARP Virginia's process

- Create health care reform task force
- Research consumers' views on health care quality
- Dialog with providers on best ways to demonstrate continued competency
- Introduce legislation to require DOC as a condition of relicensing

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AARP Virginia's process

- Health care reform task force

- Charles Alexander
- Kaye Berry
- Raymond Boyd
- Gerri Holmes
- Dan Johnson
- Richard Lindsay MD
- William Lukhard
- John Moore RN
- Richard Morrison PhD (deceased)
- Kenneth Olshansky MD
- Nancy Roberts
- Joe Sailor
- Ed Susank, chair
- Neil Walsh
- Rose Wesson
- Bill Kallio, Madge Bush & Amy Gilbody, AARP VA
- Ilene Henshaw & Joyce Dubow, AARP National
- David Swankin, CAC

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AARP Virginia's process

- Research consumers' views

- 68% believe that being licensed means the provider has undergone periodic evaluation & assessment
- 98% felt it was important for health professionals to periodically demonstrate current competency
- 30% report they or a family member have experienced a medical error

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AARP Virginia's process

- Dialog with providers

- VA Board of Health Professions
- Governor's Health Care Commission
- Virginia Medical Society
- Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association
- Virginia Dental Association
- Virginia Pharmacists Association
- Virginia Nurses Association
- Virginia Health Care Association

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AARP Virginia's process

- Introduce legislation

- Commission a study, followed by a report, on how the health professional licensing boards can best implement such a new policy
- Each licensing board will base its requirements on the characteristics of the professions it regulates

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Health Care Licensing – VA Board of Health Professions

Oversees 13 licensing boards:

- Audiology
- Counseling
- Dentistry
- Funeral Dir.
- LTC Admin.
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Optometry
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Veterinary Medicine

A wide range of practitioners and entities:

- Acupuncturist
- Athletic Trainer
- Chiropractor
- Crematory
- Embalmer
- Clinical Social Worker
- Massage Therapist
- Midwife
- Occupational Therapist
- Pharmacy Tech.
- Podiatrist
- Respiratory Care Practitioner
- School Psychologist
- Speech Pathologist
- Substance Abuse Counseling Asst.
- Veterinary Technician

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Methods for demonstrating current competencies:

- Peer review
- Consumer satisfaction surveys
- Records or chart review
- Written or oral examinations
- Performance evaluation
- Program portfolios
- CE based on needs assessment but test to verify grasp of the material

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Sources of study

- Fifty years of policy studies
- IOM studies on safety and quality of care
- Pew Health Professions Commission recommendations
- McGlynn et al. "The Quality of Health Care Delivered to Adults in the US" NEJM June 2003
- Continued initiatives of the Citizen Advocacy Center
- AARP Public Policy recommendations 2000-2006
- AARP Public Policy Institute report on "Implementing Continuing Competency Requirements for Health Care Practitioners" (2006)

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